

Arizona Medical Marijuana Program Frequently Asked Questions

Physicians

What are my obligations to my patient?

The law and rules specify requirements for issuing written certifications for patients for the medical use of marijuana. A physician is required to:

- Have made or confirmed a diagnosis of a debilitating medical condition, as defined in [A.R.S. § 36-2801](#), for the qualifying patient;
- Have established a medical record for the qualifying patient and am maintaining the qualifying patient's medical record as required in [A.R.S. § 12-2297](#);
- Have conducted an in-person physical examination of the qualifying patient within the last 90 calendar days appropriate to the qualifying patient's presenting symptoms and the debilitating medical condition the physician diagnosed or confirmed;
- Have reviewed the qualifying patient's medical records, including medical records from other treating physicians from the previous 12 months, the qualifying patient's responses to conventional medications and medical therapies, and the qualifying patient's profile on the Arizona Board of Pharmacy Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program database;
- Have explained the potential risks and benefits of the medical use of marijuana to the qualifying patient, or if applicable, the qualifying patient's custodial parent or legal guardian;
- If the physician has referred the qualifying patient to a dispensary, have disclosed to the qualifying patient, or if applicable, the qualifying patient's custodial parent or legal guardian, any personal or professional relationship I have with the dispensary; and
- Attest that, in the physician's professional opinion, the qualifying patient is likely to receive therapeutic or palliative benefit from the qualifying patient's medical use of marijuana to treat or alleviate the qualifying patient's debilitating medical condition.

In addition, for a patient who is under the age of 18, another physician must:

- Have conducted an comprehensive review of the qualifying patient's medical records from other physicians treating the qualifying patient;
- If the physician has referred the qualifying patient to a dispensary, have disclosed to the qualifying patient, or if applicable, the qualifying patient's custodial parent or legal guardian, any personal or professional relationship I have with the dispensary; and
- Attest that, in the physician's professional opinion, the qualifying patient is likely to receive therapeutic or palliative benefit from the qualifying patient's medical use of marijuana to treat or alleviate the qualifying patient's debilitating medical condition.

I've heard that the ADHS will be looking for unprofessional conduct if physicians write certifications for recreational use or for doing an incomplete evaluation. What do you plan to do?

ADHS will periodically review the demographics of qualifying patients. If ADHS determines that a physician providing written certifications may be engaging in unprofessional conduct, ADHS will provide information to the physician's licensing board.

If I sign up as a medical director for a dispensary what are my obligations and what is prohibited? What will a dispensary's medical director do?

The [duties](#) of a dispensary's medical director include providing guidance to staff and clients of the dispensary. A medical director is not permitted by the rules to provide written certifications for medical marijuana.

Costs

How much will it cost to apply for a registry identification card or a dispensary registration certificate?

The [fees](#) are listed in rules and include:

- \$150 for an initial or a renewal registry identification card for a qualifying patient.
Some qualifying patients may be eligible to pay \$75 for initial and renewal cards if they currently participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- \$200 for an initial or a renewal registry identification card for a designated caregiver.
- \$500 for an initial or a renewal registry identification card for a dispensary agent.
- \$5,000 for an initial dispensary registration certificate.
- \$1,000 for a renewal dispensary registration certificate.
- \$2,500 to change the location of a dispensary or cultivation facility.
- \$10 to amend, change, or replace a registry identification card.